(ii) Intensification of training programme for technical staff to acquaint them with the technological improvement in design, upkeep and maintenance of the vehicle/depots.

(iii) Corrective action to improve the life of major/minor assembly.

Gujarat Public Works Contracts Disputes Arbitration Tribunal Ordinance

1445-A. SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat Public Works Contracts Disputes Arbitration Tribunal Ordinance for enacting law on the subject is pending with the Central Government;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be cleared; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

The previous instructions of the President for the promulgation of the Gujarat Public Works Contracts Disputes Arbitration Tribunal Ordinance, 1989 have been conveyed to the State Government on 4-9-1991.

Economic Pacts signed between India and Bangladesh

1445-B. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some economic pacts have been signed between India and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether these agreements will improve the bilateral relations between the two countries;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what steps are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the recent visit of the Bangladesh Foreign Minister to India two Agreements, namely, a Convention on Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion, and a Credit Agreement between the Government of India and Bangladesh, were signed. The Convention provides for tax exemption to each other's business enterprises, airlines and shipping companies, to avoid the incident of their having to pay the same tax twice. The Credit Agreement extends a government-to-government credit-line of Rs. 30 crores to Bangladesh, to be used for the purchase of capital goods from India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Convention aims at avoiding the incident of the business enterprises of the two countries having to pay the same tax twice, and would thus make trading between India and Bangladesh less expensive for the parties concerned. This would improve economic relations between our two countries. Similarly, the credit-line of Rs. 30 crores would help Bangladesh purchase a larger quantity of Indian capital goods thereby drawing the two economies, which already share a special relationship, even closer together.

(e) Does not arise.

Minor Indian girls married to Foreigners

1445-C. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that minor girls in India are married off to foreigners on the basis of monetary transaction; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Some incidents have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) The enquiry and action in the matter is a State subject and lies with the State Government. However, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indian Army Chief meeting with US Deputy Secretary of State

1445-D. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gen. S. F. Rodrigues, *Indian Chief of Army Staff met* U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Mr. Laurence Eagleburger in U.S. recently; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether Mr. Eagleburger indicated the U.S. desire that India should reconsider if opposition to signing the nuclear non-proliferation treaty; if so, what is the Government of India's stand now that China and france have agreed to sign it; and

(c) what transpired at his meeting with the Chairman of the U.S. Joints Chief of Staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Information is awaited and will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt.

12,00 NOON

(The Deputy Chairman in the Chair)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Surface Transport (Ports Wing)

II. Notification of Ministry of Surface Transport publishing the corrigendum to Notification G.S.R. No. 931 (E) dated the 30th Nov., 1990.

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Surface Transport (Ports Wing), under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1968:—

(i) G.S.R. No. 201(E), dated the 3rd April, 1991, approving the Visakhapatnam Port Employees (Classification, Control and Appeal) Amendment Regulations, 1991.

(ii) G.S.R. No. 214(E), dated the 15th April, 1990 approving the Madras Port Trust (Pension) (Amendment) Regulations, 1991.

(iii) G.S.R. No. 217(E), dated the 15th April, 1991, approving the Madras Port Trust Employees (Retirement) (Amendment) Regulations, 1991.

(iv) G.S.R. No. 228(E), dated the 22nd April, 1991, approving the Kandla Port (Authorisation of Pilots) Amendment (Second) Regulations, 1991.

(v) G.S.R. No. 931(E), dated the 30th November, 1990, approving the Madras Port Trust (Pension) (First Amendment) Regulations, 1991.